

Village of Los Lunas



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Candidates File for March 5 Village Election

Village of Los Lunas voters will go to the polls Tuesday, March 5, 2002, to elect a mayor and municipal judge. Voters in Village Council Districts Two and Four will also elect councilors.

Three candidates filed for the position of mayor. They are incumbent Louis F. Huning, Frank A. Otero and Victor Lynn Williams. This is a four year term.

Please note that all candidates are listed in alphabetical order rather than the order they will appear on the ballot. Drawings for ballot posi-

tions were held after this newsletter went to press. In addition, it is possible that a write-in candidate might file for an office.

Candidates for municipal judge, also a four year term, are Jeff P. Aragon, Lorrie G. Maurer and Patrick M. Ortiz.

Two council seats are up for election, both for four year terms.

Candidates for the District Two Village Council Seat are Robert L. Cantrell, incumbent Charles Griego and Pete M. Serafin.

Candidates for the District Four

Village Council seat are Ruben Garcia and incumbent Robert E. Vialpando.

All registered voters in Los Lunas may vote for mayor and municipal judge. Only those people in District Two or Four may vote for a village council member.

The election is Tuesday, March 5, when polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Village Administrative Building at the intersection of Don Pasqual and Main Street.

Last day to register to vote is

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The Workings of a Wastewater Treatment Plant

This is a two part series about how wastewater is treated in Los Lunas. The first part is a basic lesson about the wastewater treatment plant. The second part is miscellaneous information about how the village deals with wastewater treatment.)

It's a topic unfit for dinner conversation, but how it works is integral to the health and welfare of areas where sewer service is provided via a wastewater treatment plant. And how a wastewater treatment plant works is standard whether in Los Lunas or in Atlanta, Georgia.

How standard this is amazed Village of Los Lunas officials when they attended the National League of Cities meeting in Atlanta this winter. A tour of the wastewater treatment facilities for that large city showed that the plants in Los Lunas and Atlanta operate in the same fashion.

How does a wastewater treatment plant work? It has many components that work together to return water to the Rio Grande river bed as well as to revegetate an area of the mesa west of Los Lunas.

Sewage is the wastewater released by residences, businesses and industries in a community such as Los Lunas with a sewer system. Sewage is 99.94 percent water with

only .06 percent composed of dissolved and suspended solid material

Multi-Stage Treatment

Treatment at a wastewater plant is a multi-stage process to renovate wastewater before it reenters a body of water, is applied to the land or is reused. The goal is to reduce or remove organic matter, solids, nutrients, disease-causing organ-

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These people could be very important to you in case of an emergency. They are full time fire fighters and Emergency Medical Technicians for the Village's fire department. Left to right are Del A. DeAnda, John Gabaldon, Denise A. Walker and Assistant Fire Chief Carlos Mireles. See complete story about the Los Lunas Fire Department on Page Two.

Fire Department Does Much for Community

Until September 11, 2001, we often took fire and police departments for granted no matter where we lived. Then September 11 happened.

Now we have a far greater realization about what these departments do. And the Village of Los Lunas Fire Department is no exception to accomplishing much for its community.

Atilano "Lito" Chavez has been chief of the Los Lunas Fire Department since 1982. He is also the safety coordinator for the village.

Chavez, five paid employees and volunteers man the village's station 24 hours a day, seven days a week 365 days a year. The village is in the process of hiring a seventh fire fighter/medic for the department.

Trained as EMTs

The full time staff is not only trained in fire fighting but also as Emergency Medical Technicians with basic life saving techniques. In addition, the fire department has 23 volunteer fire fighters including two high school cadets who must maintain a "C" average.

About thirty-five percent of the volunteers are female as are two of the full time staff.

The department answers 150 medical calls and 20 fire calls a month. Fire calls are answered with a variety of equipment. The village has three pumpers which pump water from hydrants to fight a fire. Two pumpers are from the 1980s. A third pumper is a 1968 and the village is replacing it with a 2002 Class A Pumper

The village's 1997 Fast Tak mini-pumper smothers a fire with foam and can combat different types of fires. The Fast Tak also has the extrication equipment, commonly called Jaws of Life.

The village's medical unit is staffed by the EMT basics and contains basic life saving equipment.

ISO Determines Insurance Rate

The fire department and the ability to fight fires is important to home owners because of the ISO rating. The ISO rating determines insurance prices.

Los Lunas' rating is Class Six, one of the lowest in the county. The goal is Class Five. This will be accomplished with an extra water well.

Extra Well Helps Flow

An extra water well, says Chavez, will improve the flow of water through the system. The flow must be coordinated



Village of Los Lunas Fire Chief Atilano "Lito" Chavez stands with the 1930 Model A fire truck which once served the village. When Chavez started with the department in 1976, he performed his duties using this vehicle.

between a hydrant and a pumper, he explained, so that water will spray on a fire at the correct rate.

Chavez has watched the village grow from 1,000 to more than 10,000. He says that growth is one of the reasons the village will be hiring a fire inspector/emergency management coordinator.

Permit of Occupancy

Before a building may be occupied, it must be issued a Permit of Occupancy which is not issued until inspection by a fire department or fire marshal. With the village's growth and commercial construction, it has been difficult to keep up. Having a village employee to

perform these duties as well as coordinate an emergency plan for the village makes sense, says Chavez.

The village has a fire substation on the old Hospital and Training School grounds. The facility has never been annexed into the village, so the village and county have a Memorandum of Understanding. This means the village can use a building for a fire truck in return for providing medical and fire protection.

Come on By

If you want more information about the Los Lunas fire department, you can stop by the facility at the corner of Don Diego and Main Street and have a tour. The crews love having visitors.

UNM Students Perform Planning Study

University of New Mexico students performed a community and regional planning study in Los Lunas as part of a main campus class project.

The students made several suggestions to strengthen the village's identity including

- Caring for assets such as history,

Attend a Council Meeting!

The Los Lunas Village Council meets twice monthly at the administrative building on Don Pasqual and Main Street. Times and dates are subject to change. Call Debra at 865-9689 to verify. Scheduled 2002 meetings:

January 10 & 24 February 7 & 21

March 7 & 21 April 4 & 18

May 9 & 23 June 6 & 20

July 11 & 24 August 8 & 22

September 5 & 19 October 10 & 24

November 7 & 21 December 12 & 19

community and historic properties;

- Identifying special places; and
- Finding ways to care for the Rio Grande and bosque.

The students also presented the village council with a way to hold public hearings regarding changes which may improve response.

VILLAGE OFFICIALS

Louis F. Huning **Mayor**

Councilors

Cecilia CC Castillo Charles Griego

Gerard Saiz Robert V ialpando

Municipal Judge

Richard Luna

Village Administrator

Phillip Jaramillo

Master Municipal Clerk

Chief of Police Nick Balido

The Workings of a Wastewater Treatment Plant Continued from Page One

isms and other pollutants.

The Rio Grande, where water is returned after going through the treatment process, has limits to the amount of pollutants it can receive.

Therefore, the Los Lunas wastewater treatment plant, like any other plant, must hold a permit listing the allowable levels of pollutants.

The discharge permits are called NPDES permits which means the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System.

Sewage lines for Los Lunas collect at the wastewater treatment plant located at the south end of Carson Park where it has been since 1983.

Preliminary Screening

Once it reaches the plant then the preliminary treatment is to screen out or separate debris.

Sticks, rags, large food particles, sand, gravels, toys and miscellaneous other items (some of which are not imaginable) are removed to protect the pumping and other equipment in the plant.

The second stage is a biological process to remove dissolved organic matter. Sewage microorganisms are cultivated and added

to the wastewater. The microorganisms absorb organic matter.

Air System Stirs

An air system stirs and suspends microorganisms in wastewater. As the microorganisms absorb organic matter and nutrients they grow in size and number. After the microorganisms have been suspended for several hours, they are settled out as a sludge.

The next step in the treatment is to separate suspended solids and greases from wastewater. Tanks hold the wastewater for several hours allowing particles to settle to the bottom and greases to flow to

the top. Solids drawn off the bottom and skimmed off the top receive further treatment as sludge. The clarified wastewater flows on to the next stage of treatment.

Final Treatment

Final treatment in Los Lunas focuses on removal of disease-causing organisms from wastewater. The water is disinfected using ultraviolet light before being sent to the Rio Grande river bed.

While the water is sent to the Rio Grande, the sludge is taken to the mesa west of Los Lunas where it is spread across a multi-acre site fertilized with the sludge.

Two Participate in Leadership NM

Mayor Louis F. Huning is one of two Valencia County business persons selected to participate in the current class of Leadership New Mexico. Another participant is Ken Carson, president of the Bank of Belen and a former Los Lunas resident.

Leadership New Mexico, founded in 1995, identifies current and emerging leaders throughout the state to enhance their leadership skills, and deepen their understanding of the challenges and opportuni-

ties facing New Mexico.

The 2001-2002 class of 44 people is the largest group of program participants from 22 different communities throughout the state.

Class sessions include topics such as economic development, education, environment and natural resources, government, leadership, and health and human services issues. Class sessions are held six times a year in various locations around the state.

Village Election Tuesday, March 5 All Village Registered Voters Elect Mayor, Municipal Judge



Voters in Districts Two & Four
Elect Councilors



Are You Registered to Vote?

Call 866-2080 For Registration Information

Candidates File Continued from Page One

Tuesday, February 5. On February 6, absentee ballots may be cast in person. The first day for early voting at the village administrative building is Wednesday, February 5. The last day to early vote is Friday, March 1.



Village Holidays & Date(s) Observed

Martin Luther King Jr. Day — January 21, 2002

Good Friday — Friday, March 29, 2002

Memorial Day — Monday, May 27, 2002

Fourth of July — Thursday, July 4, 2002

Labor Day — Monday, September 2, 2002

Columbus Day — Monday, October 14, 2002

Veterans Day — Monday, November 11, 2002

Thanksgiving Day Holidays —

Thursday/Friday, November 28 & 29

Christmas Holidays —

Wednesday/Thursday, December 25 & 26, 2002

Shopping Locally Continues to Be Important

January tends to bring resolutions for the remainder of the year so how about a resolution to shop locally more in 2002?

In the November-December, 2001, newsletter, we brought you an alphabet soup of shopping possibili-

Answers to Your Animal Questions in Los Lunas

Question: What do I do when a neighbor has a dog that barks all night long?

Answer: Approach the neighbor and let him know that his animals are bothering you. If the neighbor does not take care of the problem, then you can come in to the village building at Don Pasqual and Main Street to sign a complaint form. A letter is sent notifying the owner that there is a problem and he has seven days to take care of it. If the problem is not taken care of, the owner is cited to court.

The procedure takes about 15 days.

Question: What do I do if the neighbor lets his dog out after hours.

Answer: There are several options: 1. Come in the next day and sign a complaint form. 2. Tie the dog up if possible and call the Animal Control Officer at 865-1377 or 865-9689 the next day, or 3. Come in to the village building at Don Pasqual and Main to get a dog trap. These procedures can also be followed if dogs are running at large during the day.

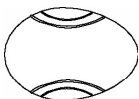
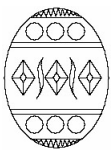
Los Lunas Animal Control Officer is Jerome Chavez available at 865-1377.

ties in Los Lunas. We can think of even more possibilities for shopping — hardware and building supplies; garden tools; services such as income tax preparation, health care as well as investments; and, last but not least, real estate help.

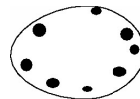
EGG HUNT THURSDAY, MARCH 21

Noon — Age Group One to Five at Neighborhood Park on Carson Drive

4 pm — Age Group Six to 11 at Daniel Fernandez Park



TEEN EASTER DANCE



Friday March 22 8 PM - 11 PM Daniel Fernandez Park

Hunt for eggs at night with a flashlight. Prizes awarded.

These Special Events Presented by

The Village of Los Lunas

Parks & Recreation Department

If you have a disability and need special accommodations to participate in these events, please notify the Parks & Recreation Department at 865-2128.

